

**Weekly Weather
Crop Report**

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 20, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 20, 2003**. Scattered showers are becoming a curse for producers wishing to harvest hay. The row crops that did receive rain have benefitted nicely, but irrigation continues in the Delta, as soils are drying rapidly from the hot days. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 12 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 21 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	100	97	99	99	0	2	13	53	32
	Dough	87	75	86	88					
	Dent	55	35	56	62					
	Silage Harvested	26	17	29	24					
Cotton	Squaring	93	85	98	99	2	7	13	52	26
	Setting Bolls	70	48	82	87					
Rice	Heading	43	24	36	33	0	1	13	56	30
Sorghum	Heading	82	74	91	88	0	0	13	59	28
	Turning Color	27	13	35	28					
Soybeans	Blooming	87	80	80	87	0	2	17	50	31
	Setting Pods	70	59	57	65					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	66	58	62	64	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	100	98	100	100	0	3	32	29	36
Watermelons	Harvested	85	65	72	61	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						0	3	15	60	22
Pasture						0	2	19	57	22

County Agent Comments

“Crops are late, but are growing rapidly. Cotton is starting to bloom and will depend on favorable weather and no other disasters to make an average crop. Hay yields have been good to below average. Cattle have benefitted from the recent rains on pastures.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Showers and thunderstorms dropped up to an inch of rainfall in the county. We still have dry areas and irrigation is the item of the day. Insect pressure is increasing slightly in cotton.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“It has been really dry for the last couple of weeks. A good rain would help out a lot of fields at this time.”

— Guy Wilson, Washington

“Scattered showers have been frequent for July, but some areas have been missed. Crops are progressing very well. Insect pressure is no more than normal.”

— Terry Rector, Warren

“Rains are beginning to become less frequent, allowing for some hay harvest. We are still way behind on hay production, and the quality is also in question.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Hay harvest is being delayed due to afternoon showers every day! Hay fields are past the ideal harvest stage. Vegetable fields were cut out early due to increased disease pressure from the extreme wet weather.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Lay-by applications are going out in late cotton. Hay harvest is in full swing. There was hail damage from the storm Sunday night, with some being severe.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We are in need of some rain in most areas of the county. There are no major problems concerning the crops.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“The worms have finally hit! Conventional cotton started Tuesday and Wednesday. Bt variety is staying quiet. The timber mills are having trouble getting a lot of trees. Normally they are stock-piling trees now for this winter. Right now they are getting enough for each day's run, but very little surplus for stock-piling.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“It's finally dry enough in Madison County that we are wishing for rain. All crops are progressing at a normal rate. Pasture and hay fields are in need of water, but are in fairly good condition today.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Hot and drier conditions are helping the crops catch up. However, insect and weed pressure is increasing. The break in weather has also helped producers harvest hay. Growing conditions are good for all crops. Pastures are doing very well for this time of year.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Corn Silage harvest is almost complete. Summer hay harvest picked up last week as rain showers came a little less often.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Silage Harvest is almost completed! Harvest looks good in most fields.”

— Theresa Sanders, Hinds

“Farming activities are moving right along. Watermelon producers are working hard to get rid of their melons due to the abundance of melons on the market.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Cattle producers are to the point that hay must be cut. Afternoon rain showers are scattered over the county. Most row crops look extremely good.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Hay harvest operations are being hindered by daily afternoon thundershowers. Hence, hay quality is being lowered due to later maturity at harvest and loss of nutrients by being rained on several times prior to baling. Corn silage harvest continues in full swing with some very good yields in terms of quantity and quality. Dairy producers are eagerly anticipating higher milk prices as cheese prices have advanced in recent weeks. The USDA June Milk Production Report released on July 17th, boosted milk futures due to: milk production values being down 0.1 percent, per cow production holding steady, and cow numbers dropping.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Had rain last night in some parts of the county. Wet soils in some fields are causing the cotton to lean over. Peanuts look real good. Pastures are growing well due to the frequent rainfall. Very little summer hay has been harvested. Lots of Bahia seed this year, with some interest resurfacing on combining seed. Cattle look good.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Afternoon showers continue to pose problems for hay producers, and as a result, nutrient value will decrease.”

— Walter Walker, Jackson

“This is one of the toughest years for curing hay that I can remember. Due to the rainy weather, most cuttings are over mature and this has decreased the overall quality. Corn silage harvest is underway with good tonnage and high quality.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Moisture levels remain high which is encouraging for good pasture maintenance. Summer hay is being cut and baled between intermittent summer showers. At present, the quality of the hay is excellent, but if there are many delays due to the weather, the quality of summer hay will be reduced.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from July 14, 2003 to July 20, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	95	68	82	81	+1	1.78E	+0.79	2	3.81E				
Cleveland	97	72	84	82	+2	0.75	+0.04	3	2.61				
Tunica	97	68	83	82	+1	1.58	+0.75	3	2.60	100	71	87	0.28
Extreme/Average	97	68	83	82	+1	1.37	+0.43	3	3.01	100	71	87	0.28
2. North-Central													
Batesville	94	68	81	81	0	1.63	+0.69	1	3.72				
Calhoun City	91	68	80	81	-1	0.58	-0.38	3	2.98				
Independence	91	66	80	80	0	1.04	+0.17	3	3.28				
Oxford	95	68	82	80	+2	0.24	-0.67	2	2.52				
Extreme/Average	95	66	81	81	0	0.87	-0.11	2	3.13				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	67	79	80	-1	2.13	+1.21	3	3.05				
Corinth City	93	66	79	82	-3	0.30E	-0.68	2	1.23E				
Iuka	91	62	76	78	-2	0.28	-0.77	3	2.34				
Ripley	92	66	79	79	0	2.71	+1.62	4	4.86				
Tupelo	92	68	81			1.71E		3	5.07E				
Extreme/Average	93	62	79	80	-1	1.43	+0.41	3	3.31				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	98	71	83	82	+1	0.42	-0.81	2	3.24	101	83	92	
Rolling Fork	98	71	84	82	+2	0.70	-0.22	2	3.70	106	85	94	
Stoneville	98	71	82	83	-1	0.39	-0.51	1	2.42	101	82	91	0.23
Yazoo City	95	70	81	82	-1	0.31	-0.67	1	1.52				
Extreme/Average	98	70	83	82	+1	0.46	-0.59	2	2.72	106	82	93	0.23
5. Central													
Canton	98	68	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.86	0	0.89				
Carthage	94	69	81	81	0	0.58	-0.47	1	3.92				
Eupora				80		1.26	+0.34	2	5.37				
Extreme/Average	98	68	81	81	0	0.61	-0.51	1	3.39				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	93	67	80	81	-1	1.86	+0.97	4	4.18				0.24
Houston	92	65	79	80	-1	0.38	-0.51	2	2.75				
Louisville				79		1.56	+0.30	1	7.12				
State University	94	68	81	81	0	0.32	-0.68	3	3.58	89	80	84	0.19
Extreme/Average	94	65	80	81	-1	1.03	-0.17	3	4.41	89	80	84	0.22
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	95	69	81	82	-1	1.19	+0.23	2	6.51	94	75	86	
Natchez	93	65	81	82	-1	1.05	+0.14	3	2.51				
Oakley	97	70	83	81	+2	0.15	-0.69	2	0.74	103	85	94	
Vicksburg	95	71	82			0.04		1	1.51				
Extreme/Average	97	65	82	81	+1	0.61	-0.50	2	2.82	103	75	90	
8. South-Central													
Collins				81		1.27	+0.15	2	6.94				
Columbia	94	72	83	82	+1	0.05	-1.22	2	6.38				
Tylertown	93	70	81	81	0	2.43	+1.03	2	10.79				
Extreme/Average	94	70	82	81	+1	1.25	+0.03	2	8.04				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.61E		2	10.83E				
Hattiesburg	94	68	81	82	-1	0.30	-1.03	3	11.97				
Laurel	93	69	81	81	0	1.17	-0.11	3	7.67				
Newton	95	65	80	80	0	1.16	+0.04	2	10.60	89	74	82	0.26
Extreme/Average	95	65	81	81	0	0.81	-0.45	3	10.27	89	74	82	0.26
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	97	67	81	82	-1	1.04	-0.71	3	11.57				
Gulfport	91	72	81	83	-2	1.95	+0.34	3	13.67				
Pascagoula	90	71	80	81	-1	0.90	-0.80	1	14.69				
Poplarville	93	69	81	82	-1	1.14	-0.40	4	13.13	93	75	83	0.23
Waveland	94	71	81	81	0	2.02	+0.48	4	14.68				
Extreme/Average	97	67	81	82	-1	1.41	-0.06	3	13.26	93	75	83	0.23
State	98	62	81	81	0	0.93	-0.21	2	5.37	106	71	86	0.24

DFN = Departure from Normal.